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## **CHAPTER 3: THE NLSY79 YOUNG ADULTS**

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### **Introduction: An Overview**

Because of the enormous potential for furthering research possibilities with the NLSY79 cohort and their offspring, the decision was made in 1994 to separate these older children into a third NLSY79 component, called the Young Adult. This chapter will discuss sample issues that affect the Young Adult survey, the content and structure of the survey instrument and its historical evolution, data quality issues, and constructed variables.

Since 1994, the NLSY79 children who attained age 15 by the end of a survey year have no longer been given cognitive and other assessments, but instead receive a Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) or Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) survey. The Young Adult CAPI/CATI questionnaire focuses on the transition to adulthood, with detailed questions on education, employment, training, health, family experiences, attitudes, interactions with other family members, substance use, sexual activity, non-normative activities, computer use, health problems, and prosocial behavior. Many of the questions in the Young Adult survey parallel those that have been asked of their mothers over the years, particularly when their mothers had been at comparable life cycle points. The Young Adult survey, however, contains more in-depth data than had been asked of their mothers for areas such as sexual activity, drug use, schooling activities, attitudes, and marriage and cohabitation history. The primary interview mode for the 1994 through 1998 survey rounds was in-person interviewing; however, beginning with the 2000 survey round the primary mode has shifted to telephone interviewing.

### ***The Young Adult Samples***

Not all older children represented in the child file are eligible to be fielded as Young Adults, because the child file includes all children known to have been born to NLSY79 mothers. The older children of mothers in the dropped military and economically disadvantaged white oversamples are in the child file but are ineligible to be interviewed. Additionally, children who have either no or only one or two assessment points from very early in the child study, such as 1986 or 1988, and/or who had not recently been co-resident with their mothers at least part time are usually not fielded in the Young Adult sample even if they are age-eligible. Conversely, young adults who are fielded are eligible to be interviewed regardless of whether or not they are living with their mother. Older children who are

determined to be eligible for the Young Adult survey for a given round are said to be “fielded” in that survey year. Of course, not all of the children we field as young adults get interviewed. Mothers may refuse to allow younger young adults to be interviewed, the young adults themselves may refuse, or they may be unlocatable.

In 1994 and 1996, the Young Adult sample included all children who were age 15 and over by December 31 of that year and who met the other selection criteria. Due to budgetary constraints, the Young Adult sample in 1998 was limited to those less than age 21 as of the interview date. With additional funding through a grant from NICHD, beginning in 2000 the sample again includes young adults aged 21 and older as well as those aged 15 to 20; however, around 40 percent of the black and Hispanic oversample cases between the ages of 15 and 20 were not fielded in 2000 only for budgetary reasons. However, all young adults—regardless of age or minority status—were once again eligible to be interviewed in 2002.

### ***Young Adult Interview Patterns***

Table 3.1 shows the pattern of Young Adult interviews for the 1994 through 2000 survey rounds. When the Young Adult Survey was first fielded in 1994, 1,111 older children were identified to be eligible for the Young Adult survey. Of the 1,111 fielded in 1994, interviews were conducted with 980. By 2000, we fielded 3,644 young adults and secured interviews with 3,025 young adults.

**Table 3.1. NLSY79 Young Adults Interviewed 1994-2000 by Age and Race/Ethnicity**

Age at Interview	1994 <sup>1</sup>				1996 <sup>1</sup>				1998 <sup>1</sup>				2000			
	Hispanic	Black	White	Total	Hispanic	Black	White	Total	Hispanic	Black	White	Total	Hispanic	Black	White	Total
14	23	57	40	120	51	80	79	210	58	80	90	228	44	63	114	221
15	63	115	95	273	81	136	141	358	102	163	176	441	64	102	212	378
16	47	92	55	194	69	142	129	340	107	150	148	405	79	106	168	353
17	28	74	44	145	54	108	70	232	81	134	127	342	70	106	173	349
18	26	64	38	128	41	91	66	198	73	141	111	325	68	112	139	319
19	12	42	17	71	31	60	41	132	50	93	64	207	56	82	137	275
20	6	16	5	27	15	62	31	108	39	87	54	180	62	127	121	310
21+	2	15	4	21	15	49	18	93	5	5	5	15	63	103	76	242
22													43	89	61	193
23-25													67	179	88	334
26-29													8	31	12	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>1672</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>2143</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>1301</b>	<b>3025</b>

Note: In 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000, a respondent must have attained the age of 15 by the end of the survey year to be included in the Young Adult survey. In 1998 only, an additional age restriction was imposed: respondents had to be under 21 by the date of interview. A decision was made to retain data from the 15 Young Adults who were inadvertently interviewed even though they had already turned 21. In 2000, approximately 40 percent of black and Hispanic oversample cases between age 15 and 20 were not fielded.

<sup>1</sup> Age categories have been collapsed to "21+" for 1994, 1996, and 1998 due to the relatively small number of respondents in those categories.

Table 3.2 illustrates the distribution of young adults at various ages by the age of the mother at the young adult's birth, also broken out by the mother's race. As can be seen, as children continue to age up into the Young Adult sample, the Young Adult sample becomes increasingly heterogeneous (see Chapter 1 for a fuller discussion of the NLSY79 Child and Young Adult samples). This is more true with every possible survey round. Table 3.2 clarifies how this increasing heterogeneity is associated with the fact that young adults are increasingly linked with mothers who were older at the child's birth.

**Table 3.2. Young Adult Age at 2000 Interview by Age of Mother at Birth of Young Adult and by Race/Ethnicity**

Age of YA	Age of Mother at Child's Birth								
	11-13	14-16	17-19	20-22	23-25	24+	Total	Mean	Std Dev
All Young Adults									
14-16			41	354	359	198	952	23.2	2.3
17-19		10	286	398	246	3	943	20.8	2.2
20-22		98	342	298	7		745	18.9	1.9
23-25	2	123	205	4			334	17.0	1.3
26-29	3	41	7				51	15.3	1.2
Total	5	272	881	1054	612	201	3025	20.6	3.0
Hispanic Mother									
14-16			12	68	71	36	187	23.2	2.3
17-19		4	65	77	47	1	194	20.6	2.3
20-22		18	78	71	1		168	19.0	1.8
23-25		22	45				67	17.1	1.1
26-29		7	1				8	15.5	0.8
Total		51	201	216	119	37	624	20.5	2.9
Black Mother									
14-16			20	119	96	36	271	22.7	2.3
17-19		2	100	128	70		300	20.6	2.2
20-22		55	158	105	1		319	18.5	2.0
23-25	2	78	95	4			179	16.8	1.4
26-29	3	24	4				31	15.2	1.3
Total	5	159	377	356	167	36	1100	19.7	3.0
Non-Black, Non-Hispanic Mother									
14-16			9	167	192	126	494	23.6	2.3
17-19		4	121	193	129	2	449	21.1	2.2
20-22		25	106	122	5		258	19.3	1.9
23-25		23	65				88	17.3	1.2
26-29		10	2				12	15.7	1.0
Total		62	303	482	326	128	1301	21.3	3.0

Although the child interview years have focused on children who were co-resident with their mothers, as children age up into the Young Adult sample and enter into various stages of their transition to adulthood, their types of residence, not surprisingly, become increasingly diverse. Table 3.3 shows the type of dwelling for Young Adults interviewed in 2000 by their age at interview.

**Table 3.3. Young Adult Age at 2000 Interview by Type of Dwelling Unit**

Type of Dwelling	Young Adult Age in Years											
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23-25	26-29	Total
Own Household	1	—	5	8	23	60	108	90	92	186	34	607
Parents' Household	97	171	131	120	96	62	61	38	22	22	4	824
Mother's Household	107	179	179	181	147	105	84	73	42	73	8	1178
Father's Household	10	19	21	20	23	8	12	5	5	4	—	127
Relative's Household	6	8	15	17	20	27	30	21	20	32	1	197
Temporary Housing	—	1	2	3	4	12	7	9	3	7	1	49
Military Housing	—	—	—	—	4	—	5	3	2	5	—	19
Jail	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	3	7	5	3	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>3025</b>

As highlighted in Chapter 1 and discussed in greater detail in Chapter 4, one of the strengths of this data set is the presence of sibling pairs. Table 3.4 highlights this strength by showing for young adults interviewed in 2000 the number of siblings they have *who were also interviewed in 2000*. Most of these siblings were also interviewed in past rounds, giving researchers ample data to carry out within-family analyses.

**Table 3.4. Siblings of Young Adults Interviewed in 2000**

Type of Sibling	Total Interviewed in 2000				
	None	Any Sibs?	One Sib	Two Sibs	Three+ Sibs
All Siblings	444	2,581	1,071	867	643
YA Siblings	1,011	2,014	1,252	516	246
Child Siblings	1,701	1,324	862	304	158

### **The Young Adult Survey Instrument Structure and Contents**

When the Young Adult survey was first designed for the 1994 survey round, many of the CAPI sections were made exactly parallel to those administered to the main NLSY79 respondents. However, other sections of the questionnaire were tailored for this age group. One important part of the design process was to review the NLSY79 1979 questionnaire, to consider where Young Adults could be asked questions that were essentially the same as those asked of their mothers in their first survey round. Additionally, other years of the NLSY79 were reviewed for questions to include. The Young Adult questionnaire remained fairly stable as an instrument through the 1998 fielding, with changes in parallel sections mirroring those in the NLSY79 Youth.

Based partly on input from an advisory group, the 2000 Young Adult survey instrument underwent a major redesign and differs in a variety of important ways not only from the NLSY79 Youth questionnaire, but also from the previous Young Adult instruments. The questionnaire was streamlined and adjusted for telephone administration, so that most interviews were, on average, less than one hour. About 85 percent of all Young Adult interviews were completed by telephone. Additionally, more pre-existing information was incorporated into the information sheets to determine branching for each respondent's path through the questionnaire. Branching also occurred throughout the questionnaire based on the answers provided by the respondent. However, many of the items that are comparable across the main Youth and the Young Adult were retained. Although not an exclusive listing of these items, Table 3.5 provides users with a listing of attitudinal and behavioral sequences where comparable data can be found for mothers and young adults.



**Table 3.5. Selected Attitudinal/Behavioral Sequences for Mothers and Young Adults**

Question Sequence	Mothers	YA 1994	YA 1996	YA 1998	YA 2000
<b>Attitudinal</b>					
Job Satisfaction	X	X	X	X	X
Fertility Desires/Expectations	X	X	X	X	X
Educational Desires/Expectations	X	X	X	X	X
Career Expectations	X (Women)	X	X	X	X
Marriage Expectations	X	X	X	X	X
Pregnancy "Wantedness"	x	X	X	X	X
Women's' Roles Scores	X	X	X	X	
Relationship "Quality"	X	X	X	X	X
Locus of Control	Rotter, Pearlin	Pearlin	Pearlin	Pearlin	Pearlin
Rosenberg Self-Esteem	X	X	X	X	X
Depression Scale (CES-D)	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Behavioral</b>					
Religion	X	X	X	X	X
Police Contact	X	X	X	X	X
Delinquency	X	X	X	X	X
School Discipline	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Alcohol</i>					
Ever?	X	X	X	X	X
Age First?	X	X	X	X	X
Frequency	X	X	X	X	X
Intensity	X	X	X	X	X
Location	X	X	x	x	
<i>Marijuana</i>					
Age first	X	X	X	X	X
Age last	X	Recency	Recency	Recency	Recency
Lifetime frequency	X	X	X	X	
30 day frequency	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Cocaine ("Crack" separate in 1992, 1994)</i>					
Age first	X	(separately)	(separately)	(separately)	(separately)
Age last	X	Recency	Recency	Recency	Recency
30 day frequency	X	X	X	X	X
Lifetime frequency	X	X	X	X	
<i>"Other" Drugs</i>					
(laundry list)	(laundry list)	(more detail)	(more detail)	(more detail)	(more detail)
Lifetime frequency	x	x	x	x	
Age first/last	X	X/Recency	X/Recency	X/Recency	X/Recency
30 day frequency	X	X	X	X	X
Ever?	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Cigarettes</i>					
Ever?	X	X	X	X	X
Age first?	X	X	X	X	X
Frequency	X	X	X	X	X
Intensity	X	X	X	X	X
Age Last	X	Recency	Recency	Recency	Recency

Note: Pearlin = Pearlin Mastery Scale and CES-D = Center for Epidemiologic Studies of Depression Scale

The following outline briefly describes the contents of each section of the 2000 Young Adult survey instrument and highlights changes in that section over time. Users who want a visual representation of the flow of respondents through the questionnaire can review Appendix I. The flow chart in this appendix provides a general overview of the content of each section as well as the path of respondents through each section. To fully understand the survey flow, however, users are encouraged to read the description of each section below and to consult either the printed or the HTML version of the CAPI questionnaire. Note that the HTML version is hyperlinked, allowing users to easily follow survey paths that various respondents might take. Additionally, Appendix J provides a topical listing of the kinds of variables available in the Young Adult data. Again, users should consult the printed versions of questionnaires for each year to find out exact question wording as well as respondent universes.

Generally speaking, the CAPI/CATI data that are released are largely unedited. Exceptions to this pattern are discussed in the relevant sections below. Users should note that the names of the areas of interest (called record types prior to the 1998 release) have been expanded from their previous length of eight characters into what are hopefully useful descriptors, all preceded by “YA.” Although many of the areas of interest are almost identical to the section names, there are exceptions to this pattern. For the benefit of users, the area(s) of interest associated with each section are specified. Table 3.6 provides a summary of the areas of interest in the order in which they appear in the extraction software and a description of their contents. The following sections highlight the content of the year 2000 Young Adult interview schedule, clarifying significant content changes from earlier waves as well as sampling idiosyncrasies.

**Table 3.6. Young Adult Areas of Interest**

Area of Interest	Description
YA ATTITUDES	Data from Section 16 for 1994-2000
YA BETWEEN JOBS	Data from Section 8 (Gaps) for 1994-98
YA BIRTH RECORD 1994	Data from the 1994 fertility section (Section 12)
YA BIRTH RECORD 1996	Data from the 1996 fertility section (Section 12)
YA BIRTH RECORD 1998	Data from the 1998 fertility section (Section 12)
YA BIRTH RECORD 2000	Data from the 2000 fertility section (Section 12)
YA CHILD CARE	Data from Section 13 for 1994-2000
YA CHILDRENS RECORD FORM BIOLOGICAL	Biological child roster data for 1994-2000
YA COMMON KEY VARIABLES	Commonly used variables from all YA years, constructed summary variables
YA CPS	Data from Section 6 (CPS) for 1994-98
YA DATING AND MARRIAGE	Data from Section 3 for 1994-2000
YA FAMILY BACKGROUND	Data from Section 2 for 1994-2000
YA FIRST JOB AFTER HIGH SCHOOL	Data from Section 10 for 1994-2000
YA GEOCODE 1994	Constructed geocode variables for 1994 (Available only on geocode release)
YA GEOCODE 1996	Constructed geocode variables for 1996 (Available only on geocode release)
YA GEOCODE 1998	Constructed geocode variables for 1998 (Available only on geocode release)
YA GEOCODE 2000	Constructed geocode variables for 2000 (Available only on geocode release)
YA HEALTH	Data from Section 14 for 1994-2000
YA HOUSEHOLD RECORD	Final household rosters and selected items from Section 1 for 1994-2000
YA INCOME	Data from Section 15 for 1994-2000
YA INTERVIEWER REMARKS	Selected data from the Interviewer Remarks Section for 1994-2000
YA JOB INFORMATION	Data on job characteristics collected in Employer Supplements for 1994-2000
YA JOBS	Basic job data collected in Section 7 for 1994-2000
YA LAST JOB	Data from Section 9 for 1994-2000
YA MILITARY	Data from Section 5 for 1994-2000
YA SCHOOL	Data from Section 4 for 1994-2000
YA SELF REPORT	Data from the YASRB for 1994-98 and the YASR section for 2000
YA TRAINING	Data from Section 11 for 1994-2000

***Section 1: Household Interview***

The household interview for the Young Adult questionnaire closely parallels that of the NLSY79 Youth; however, no pre-existing information is incorporated into this section. Each young adult goes through this section as though this were a new household, even if the young adult is living in the NLSY79 mother's household. The questionnaire first establishes the type of dwelling that best describes the young adult's current usual living arrangement. Because type of residence is critical to correct branching throughout the survey, the redesign for 2000 streamlined this process. The survey first asks about biological parental presence; if the young adult resides with neither biological parent, the survey then asks for usual living

arrangements. Questions are then asked about the identification, gender (if necessary), age, and relationship to the young adult of each person usually living in the household. Prior to 2000, questions concerning the highest grade completed and work of household members were also asked; these were eliminated in the process of streamlining the questionnaire. A limited amount of information is collected on the type and location of the residence.

The public release version of the questionnaire allows users to visualize how these data were collected from the respondent. However, the data that are made available to the user come from the final household roster. This roster is thoroughly cleaned prior to release to ensure that users have access to the most accurate household data we can provide. A few data elements from this section, along with the final household roster, are available in the YA HOUSEHOLD RECORD area of interest. It is important for users to note that even when the young adult is living with their mother, the mother's version of household composition and the young adult's version may *not* correspond. This can occur because one or the other omitted members, because interview dates were different, or because mothers and youth may be conceptualizing residence in different ways. No attempt is made to reconcile across mother's and young adult's household records.

### ***Section 2: Family Background***

The family background section is design to gather information about family characteristics and transitions and includes a variety of types of questions depending on each respondent's situation.

The section begins with a migration sequence, which was expanded in 2000 to include up to two moves since the date of last interview as well as a summary measure of number of moves for people indicating more than two moves. Also added in 2000 were questions aimed at older young adults to identify whether or not there was movement into or out of the mother's household, as well as a question concerning homelessness.

First-time young adults are asked to verify their date of birth and self-identify their race and ethnic background as well as their father's race. Younger young adults not living with their mother are asked when and why they left home. These younger young adults are also asked about their father's work and education, and all young adults not living with parents are asked the amount and type of contact they have with their parent(s). Where

appropriate, young adults are also asked about contact with the sibling to whom they feel closest. All young adults are asked about religious affiliation and attendance, as well as the importance of religion to them. Data from this section are contained in the YA FAMILY BACKGROUND area of interest.

### ***Section 3: Dating and Relationship History***

This section of the questionnaire collects detailed marriage and cohabitation histories, with comparable series for spouses and partners, as well as information about dating behavior.

In most survey years, young adults who are new or who have not previously reported dating activity are asked about whether and when they began dating. For 2000 only, we re-asked all young adults these dating questions, in order to have a point of comparison between in-person and telephone administration. Younger young adults also answered two questions about the number of close friend who are girls and who are boys. These questions mesh with parallel questions asked of these youth when they were 10 to 14 years of age.

Young adults who are not in a current marriage or cohabitation are asked about current dating behavior and, if they date only one person, about relationship quality. These young adults, as well as those reporting that they have never been married and no dating behavior, are also asked two questions about ideal romantic relationships.

Respondents then enter a sequence to determine current marital status and marriage/cohabitation histories. All young adults, except those whose relationships from their past interview point are still current, have their current marital status established and are asked about marriages/cohabitations since the date of last interview.

For young adults who were married or cohabiting at their last interview point, information on that relationship is updated. If the relationship is still on-going, spouse/partner characteristics and employment are updated and relationship quality is assessed. If the relationship has ended, information about the termination is collected, and the respondent then enters the sequence to determine current marital status and any additional marriages or cohabitations since the date of last interview.

Any young adults who report a current or past marriage or cohabitation answer a series of questions about the timing of each relationship and certain characteristics of the spouse/partner, including race, religion, age and highest grade completed. Young adults who

report a current spouse or partner are also asked questions about that person's employment and about the quality of the relationship.

Data from this section are available in the YA DATING AND MARRIAGE area of interest.

#### ***Section 4: Regular Schooling***

This section asks about enrollment status, school experiences, and educational aspirations. All respondents are asked if they are currently enrolled. Older young adults who are not currently enrolled are asked if they have been enrolled at all since the date of last interview. For most older Young Adults who say no, this is the exit point from Section 4. However, if no high school diploma or GED has previously been reported, we ask whether one has been obtained. Also, older respondents who were attending college at their last interview point are asked about degree completion even if they report no enrollment since the date of last interview.

Those who are currently enrolled or who have reported school attendance since the date of last interview, as well as younger young adults who are not currently enrolled, are asked a wide range of questions concerning their education. First time young adult respondents answer core questions about repeating or skipping grades and dropping out. Additionally, there are special questions on (1) school quality and time spent on homework, as well as practices used by teachers and parental involvement in homework and the school community, for respondents currently in grades 1-12, (2) the use of career planning or college preparation services by respondents who are high school juniors or seniors, (3) the names of colleges and/or universities applied to and whether or not the respondent was accepted to them for respondents in twelfth grade or first year in college, and (5) the name, type of school, major, degree receipt and financial assistance for college students. Respondents are branched throughout this section according to both enrollment status and highest grade completed. Not all questions in the 2000 schooling section are available for all years. The questions concerning time spent on homework, practices used by teachers, and parental involvement in homework and the school community were added to this section in 1996 and continue to be asked. The sequence concerning colleges applied to and accepted at was added for the first time in 2000.

The data released to the public from this section are available in the YA SCHOOL area of interest. FICE codes for colleges/universities attended or applied to are available only on the geocode release, in the YA GEOCODE area of interest for each year (see discussion of geocode variables below).

### ***Section 5: Military***

This section establishes a history of military service, with detailed questions asked about up to two periods of service. Young adults who are over the age of 16 are asked either whether they have ever (for first time young adults) or since date of last interview (for previously interviewed young adults) been enlisted or sworn into any military branch. This section is similar to the military section in the NLSY79 Youth; however, the questions in the Young Adult ask greater detail about military jobs and training. The question sequence also accommodates delayed entry programs and has questions tailored to respondents in the reserves or on active duty. The Young Adult is asked about schooling prior to and during their service. These data can be found in the YA MILITARY area of interest.

### ***Section 7: Jobs and Employer Supplements***

For the 2000 survey, the jobs and employer supplement sections were extensively redesigned, so that all questions concerning a particular employer would be asked before any information about a subsequent employer would be asked. Interviews began with the current or most recent job of the respondent and proceeded backwards chronologically. If multiple jobs were currently or most recently held, the interviewer was instructed to probe for the job with the greatest number of hours worked per week to determine the first job entered.

Beginning with the 2000 survey, information is collected on all jobs held since the date of the last interview. In prior rounds, the employment reference date was set to January 1 of the year preceding the survey round. The integrated section is designed so that the greatest detail is asked of the current or most recent job. For all prior jobs, a smaller set of questions is asked. For jobs of short duration or less than ten hours a week, only employer name, start and stop dates, and hours are asked. The streamlining of the question sequence in 2000 allows users to develop a clear employment history with critical job characteristics such as industry, occupation, and wages.

Data from Section 7 are found in the YA JOBS area of interest, while data from the Employer Supplements are found in the YA JOB INFORMATION area of interest. Although these sections were integrated into one looped section for 2000, the distinction is maintained for documentation purposes, allowing users to quickly locate comparable items across years.

### ***Section 9: Last Job Lasting Two Weeks or More***

This short section is designed to collect a small amount of employment information from respondents who were not on active duty in the military *and* who did not report working at any jobs since their employment reference date (see Section 7, Jobs and Employer Supplements). The section ascertains whether these youth have ever had a job for pay lasting two or more weeks and then asks basic details about this job such as tenure, industry, occupation, and wages. These data can be found in the YA LAST JOB area of interest.

### ***Section 10: First Significant Job after Leaving School***

This section identifies the first job a respondent had after leaving high school if this job is not identifiable from other sections of the survey. Only first-time young adult respondents who have left school prior to the date of last interview (usually defined as the mother's date of last interview) are branched into this section. A respondent had to have worked at a job for at least 2 months and at least 20 hours a week in order to be eligible for detailed questions in this section. A limited number of job characteristics are asked about, including: start date, stop date, kind of business or industry, kind of work the respondent did, hours per week, and usual earnings. The data from this section is in the YA FIRST JOB AFTER HIGH SCHOOL area of interest.

### ***Section 11: Other Training***

This section collects information about training received outside of regular schooling or the military. Prior to 2000, this section collected detailed questions on up to six training experiences. As part of the 2000 redesign, the number of training programs asked about was reduced. Detailed questions are asked only about the current or most recent training program. This includes questions on the type of training, the duration of the program, as well as the source of money to pay for the training. The section also asks about certificates, licenses and



journeyman's cards for practicing professions and what professions these were for. Respondents are then asked an additional summary question about the total number of additional training programs they have attended either ever or since the date of last interview. Younger young adults who are still in high school do not enter this section. These data are located in the YA TRAINING area of interest.

### ***Section 12: Fertility***

The fertility section of the Young Adult closely parallels that in main Youth. However, no information is collected about non-biological children or about pregnancies not ending in a live birth, with the exception, beginning in 2000, of first pregnancies. Prior to 2000, the questions relating to first pregnancies were contained in the Young Adult Self-Report Booklet (see discussion below). As part of the redesign for the 2000 Young Adult survey, some of the detailed pre- and postnatal questions were curtailed, and parenting attitude questions were added.

In order to construct a biological child roster for each respondent, information is collected, verified, and updated. Female respondents who have not reported a pregnancy in a past survey round are asked if and when they have ever been pregnant. Previously interviewed young adults are asked to verify and update their fertility information. Respondents who are young adults for the first time in a given survey round have a complete fertility record collected.

Once a biological child roster for each young parent is completed, the youth answers questions regarding each child's residence and contact with each parent. They are then asked a series of parenting attitude questions. Additionally, they are asked about how many children they expect to have, as well as about wantedness and health insurance for their children. Female respondents only are asked a limited number of questions about the pregnancy, the birth weight and length of the child when born, medical visits during the first year due to sickness or injury, well baby care, and breastfeeding for either all pregnancies or pregnancies since the last interview.

The data about pregnancies, births and the first year of life of each child that are collected in this section are available in the YA BIRTH RECORD area of interest for each survey year. However, as with the household record, there is a series of questions relating to

verifying previously reported children and recording any new children that results in a roster of biological children. Data from the final roster are available in the YA CHILDRENS RECORD FORM BIOLOGICAL area of interest. Users may wish to note that in 1994 through 1998, some data cleaning was done on the data that are in the public release. Beginning in 2000, the data in this area of interest are unedited, and a cleaned set of dates of birth has been created for all respondents ever interviewed as Young Adults (see discussion under Key Variables below).

### ***Section 13: Child Care***

The child care section of the Young Adult has traditionally focused on current childcare use for all children tied to the young adult respondent, including biological, step, adopted and/or partner's children in the household. In 1994 through 1998, questions about usual childcare arrangements and hours in childcare were asked about all identified children. In 2000, however, the focus of this section shifted dramatically and the kinds of questions asked were expanded.

The questions now focus on the youngest child in the household, regardless of whether that child is step, adopted, partner's, or biological. The rationale for this is that the primary focus of the Young Adult survey is on factors that may impact on the young adult's behavior rather than the relevance of outcomes for their children. The first series of questions in this section concern parenting behavior and are modeled after questions in the HOME section of the NLSY79 Mother Supplement (see Chapter 2 for a discussion of this instrument). These questions were developed for telephone administration and do not allow for creating an actual HOME score as is done in the NLSY79 Mother Supplement. However, the incorporation of these items provides researchers with a unique opportunity to make intergenerational comparisons of parenting behavior between the young adults and their mothers.

This section then asks about current child care for the youngest child. This includes are questions about total child care expenses for all of the children associated with the respondent, as well as whether child care difficulties affected employment. Data from this section can be found in the YA CHILD CARE area of interest.

***Section 14: Health***

The Young Adult health section closely parallels the health history that has been obtained over the years for all children of NLSY79 mothers. It gathers information on types of limitations, number of accidents and injuries, hospitalizations resulting from these accidents/injuries, height, weight, and insurance coverage. From 1994 through 1998, detailed questions were asked about accidents and injuries requiring medical attention, whether or not they resulted in hospitalization. Beginning in 2000, young adults are asked detailed questions only about accidents and injuries resulting in hospitalization. Young Adult respondents who are *not* in their mother's household are asked additional questions about illnesses and routine medical care. All data from this section are in the YA HEALTH area of interest.

***Section 15: Income and Assets***

The income section for the Young Adult questionnaire was redesigned for the 2000 survey round to streamline the flow of respondents through the section. Prior to the 2000 survey, this section closely paralleled the analogous section in the NLSY79 Youth survey, although the main Youth had more extensive questions in areas such as interest income, filing income taxes, and income received by household members other than the respondent or spouse/partner. The Young Adult also had—and continues to have—fewer asset questions asked of respondents.

Beginning in 2000, non-emancipated respondents (those under 18 and living with their mother or guardian) are asked only about their own income, their family's total income, and their sense of financial strain. All Young Adults are asked about income they have received from the military, from wages, salary, commissions, or tips, from their farm, or from non-farm business, partnership, or professional practice. Respondents who report an employment history since the date of last interview are asked about unemployment compensation receipt, both amount and duration.

Respondents who are married or who have a partner are asked about income received by their spouse or partner from the military, wages, farm, or business. They are also asked whether their spouse/partner received unemployment compensation. In addition, for several types of reciprocity, respondents are asked if they or their spouse or partner have received benefits and, if so, for how long and for what amounts. Finally, respondents are asked a

limited number of questions about assets, debts, total family income, and financial strain. These data are contained in the YA INCOME area of interest.

### ***Section 16: Attitudes***

This section contains attitude sequences that have been asked in previous rounds of the NLSY79 Youth and the Young Adult, with skip patterns based on age and interview status. First time young adults as well as young adults who were last interviewed prior to 1998 were given the Pearlin Mastery scale, introduced into the main NLSY79 in 1992 (Pearlin et al., 1981). These young adults also answered a series of items from the Rosenberg self-esteem scale, also administered to their mothers in 1980 and 1987, and completed a 7-item version of the CES-D depression scale which has been used in the main Youth survey since 1992 (Rosenberg, 1965; Radloff, 1977). Young adults last interviewed in 1998 branched directly into the Self-Report section (see next section). Table 4.3 highlights in summary form attitudinal sequences available for mothers and children.

In previous rounds, some young adults answered a number of questions on women's roles and family attitudes, given to the main Youth in 1979, 1982, and 1987. While this series was not included in the 2000 fielding, it will again be asked in 2002.

Additionally, in survey years 1994 through 1998, a series of questions about the world of work, based on questions asked of their mothers in their first interview in 1979, were asked of "new" young adults. The series about the respondent's knowledge of the world of work was followed by a number of items pertaining to hypothetical job offers, also asked only of new respondents. Each job offer contained a wage offer as well as a brief description of the job duties, and respondents were asked whether or not they would accept the offer. These two series were deleted in 2000. All data from this section are in the YA ATTITUDES area of interest.

### ***Young Adult Self-Reports***

From 1994 through 1998, young adult respondents were asked to complete the Young Adult Self-Report Booklet (YASRB), a pencil-and-paper instrument. As part of the 2000 redesign, the questions from the YASRB were streamlined and integrated into the CAPI/CATI questionnaire. For telephone administration, the interviewer read these questions

over the phone and recorded the answers. For in-person interviews, the interviewers turned the laptop around to the respondents. The respondents went through some example questions, and then responded to their actual questions. Preliminary examination of results suggests no major biases associated with the transition from in-person to telephone mode of administration.

The length of the YASRB prohibited its wholesale conversion into the CAPI/CATI instrument. As part of the redesign process, all of the questions in the YASRB were reviewed to determine, first, whether they should be retained and, second, whether they could be incorporated elsewhere in the existing CAPI/CATI instrument or kept in a separate section. For example, the pregnancy history questions fit logically into the fertility section. Most of the questions that were retained were put into the CAPI/CATI instrument in a section called the Young Adult Self Report. However, many series were streamlined as much as possible, and many questions were converted in format to allow telephone administration to maintain confidentiality. Additionally, the conversion to CAPI/CATI allowed for skips to be programmed so that respondents could be branched around questions based on their age, past interview status, information gathered earlier in the survey, and information previously provided. All of this has contributed to some shortening of the time burden being placed on respondents. This section includes questions about parent and child relationships, risk-taking attitudes, computer use, drug and alcohol use, cigarette use, contact with the criminal justice system, sexual activity, contraception, emotional problems, expectations, and participation in community activities.

Respondents who are young adults for the first time begin this section with questions about interaction patterns between the young adult and his or her parents as well as between the young adult's parents. All young adults are asked about closeness to both their mother and their father. All young adults also respond to a series of questions about recent and lifetime substance use (including cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and other substances). These questions, which address actual use as well as behaviors resulting from use, are more detailed than those asked of the children age 10-14. Beginning in 2000, explicit questions about amphetamine use were included, as was a series of questions designed to assess the impact of marijuana use in the last 12 months. The self-report section also contains questions relating to the young adult's sexual experiences including age at first intercourse, sex education, and use

of contraception. Questions about the young adult's most recent sexual partner were added beginning in 1998.

Questions about anti-social behaviors ask for information about contact with the law, including any arrests and convictions, as well as delinquent behavior not necessarily resulting in contact with the law. Many of these items were also asked of their mothers in 1980. This section also contains a set of questions on pro-social behavior, including participation in volunteer or community organizations, as well as a short series on emotional problems. Finally, there is a series of items on computer use, very similar to the questions asked of the younger children age 10-14.

The respondents are also asked to rate their neighborhood and to indicate their future expectations of life at age 35. All data from this section can be found in the YA SELF REPORT area of interest.

### ***Section 17: Interviewer Remarks***

The interviewer remarks section has remained essentially the same across survey rounds; however, in 2000 branching based on interview type was incorporated into this section. Only interviewer answers about the survey process are released to the public; these data are located in the YA INTERVIEWER REMARKS area of interest.

### ***Deleted Sections***

As part of the 2000 redesign, two sections that had been included in the 1994 through 1998 surveys were eliminated. These are the previously administered Section 6 on current labor force status and Section 8 on nonworking gaps. Section 6, Current Labor Force Status (CPS), in the Young Adult was nearly the same as the CPS section that had been in the NLSY79 main Youth. Young adults not currently serving in the active military were asked about work activities during the last week. The survey had determined if the respondent did any work for pay or profit or unpaid work in a family business or farm. There were questions on whether respondents had a disability that prevented them from doing work, number of jobs or businesses, and hours per week usually worked at all jobs. If on layoff, they were asked about the duration of the layoff and job search activities. Those not working were asked about when they last worked and if they were searching for a job. Respondents were also

asked about active and passive job search methods. This section was also eliminated in the main Youth survey for the 2000 fielding. The data for prior rounds from this section can be found in the YA CPS area of interest.

Section 8, Gaps When Not Working or in Military, paralleled a similar section in the main Youth. The number and time periods of gaps when not working were determined internally from dates given by the respondent. Young adult respondents were asked whether they were looking for work or on layoff during any gaps. If not looking for work, the respondent was asked the main reason why. This section was eliminated to facilitate the conversion of the instrument to telephone administration and save time given the additions being made such as incorporating the YASRB into the CAPI/CATI instrument. The data from this section can be found in the YA BETWEEN JOBS area of interest.

### **Industry and Occupation Coding**

All occupation and industry verbatim responses collected in the Young Adult survey are coded using Census coding frames. In 1994, the decision was made to use the 1970 coding frame, which was still in use in the main Youth data, thus making the Young Adult data directly comparable to the mother's data. In addition, the CPS job, defined as the current or most recent primary job of the respondent, was coded using the 1990 coding frame. This pattern of coding was used for the 1996 and 1998 surveys as well.

For the 2000 survey, the decision was made to switch all jobs except father's occupation to the 1990 coding frame. The father's job continued to be coded using the 1970 frame to allow for comparability with the mother's occupation. The primary job of the respondent was coded in both the 1970 and the 1990 coding frames. As a result of that decision, the 1994 through 1998 occupation and industry verbatims that had previously been coded according to the 1970 coding frame were double coded using the 1990 coding frame. As of the 2000 release, all occupation and industry verbatims, except for father's occupation, have 1990 Census codes available to users. The primary job from 2000 and all jobs from 1994 through 1998 also have 1970 codes available.

### **Key Variables**

In addition to the raw data and coded items available in the Young Adult data, there are a number of constructed variables—called key variables—that may be of particular

interest to the user. As with the NLSY79, the key variables are created to provide a set of standardized and easy-to-use variables for the user community. Table 3.7 provides a listing of some of the most commonly used key variables. Generally speaking, these variables can be found in the YA COMMON KEY VARIABLES area of interest. The exception is the CAPI interview dates for 1994 and 1996, which can be found in the YA HOUSEHOLD RECORD area of interest.



**Table 3.7. Key Variables on the NLSY79 Young Adult Files (1994-2000): Variable Descriptions and Reference Numbers**

Variable Description	1994	1996	1998	2000
Identification code of Young Adult	*	*	*	Y00001.00
Identification code of mother of Young Adult	*	*	*	Y06508.00
Date of birth of Young Adult – Day <sup>1</sup>	*	*	*	Y06392.00
Date of birth of Young Adult – Month	*	*	*	Y06392.01
Date of birth of Young Adult – Year	*	*	*	Y06392.02
Sex of Young Adult	*	*	*	Y06774.00
Race of Young Adult (mother's racial/ethnic cohort from screener)	*	*	*	Y06775.00
Year of most recent Young Adult interview				Y12050.00
Number of Young Adult interviews completed				Y12051.00
Number of Child survey years with data available for R				Y12052.00
Young Adult sampling weight	Y03565.00	Y06507.00	Y09413.00	Y11923.00
Age of Young Adult (in years) at interview date	Y03424.00	Y06776.00	Y09692.00	Y11924.00
Age of Young Adult (in years) December 31 of survey year		Y06777.00	Y09693.00	Y11925.00
Date of CAPI interview – Day	Y00002.00	Y03901.00	Y09281.00	Y11805.00
Date of CAPI interview – Month	Y00002.01	Y03901.01	Y09281.01	Y11805.01
Date of CAPI interview – Year	Y00002.02	Y03901.02	Y09281.02	Y11805.02
Type of Residence R lives in, Constructed	Y03838.00	Y06786.00	Y09698.00	Y11929.00
Region of Residence		Y06787.00	Y09699.00	Y11930.00
Number of household members in HH of R		Y06783.00	Y09695.00	Y11926.00
Official Marital Status		Y06784.00	Y09696.00	Y11927.00
Cohabitation Status of R		Y06785.00	Y09697.00	Y11928.00
Has R ever reported cohabitation?				Y12053.00
Month began first cohabitation				Y12054.00
Year began first cohabitation				Y12055.00
Has R ever reported a first marriage?				Y12056.00
Month first marriage began				Y12057.00
Year first marriage began				Y12058.00
Number of children ever born				Y12099.00
Age of R at first birth				Y12100.00

NOTE: The items in this list focus on the current data round and constitute a small subset of the total number of variables on the NLSY79 Child and YA files.

\* These variables have common reference numbers across survey years.

<sup>1</sup> Available only on the geocode release.

Two key identification codes—that of the young adult and that of the mother—are provided. Any child who has not yet aged up into the Young Adult sample, or who is ineligible for fielding, or who has been fielded but not interviewed, will have a missing value

(-7) on these two ID variables. Only children who have ever been interviewed as young adults (N=3580) have valid values. These variables are provided for users who want to quickly restrict their sample to ever-interviewed young adults. As may be noted from Table 3.7, the ever-interviewed young adults also have an updated date of birth, gender, and race based on mother's racial/ethnic cohort from the 1978 screener (for self-identified race and ethnicity, see Section 2 above).

Beginning with the 2000 release, three interview status variables are provided. The first of these variables specifies the year the Young Adult was most recently interviewed (Y12050.00). Thus, users wishing to focus on young adults interviewed in 2000 could restrict their sample using this variable. As another example, if a respondent was last interviewed in 1994, only information from that year would have been available to use in constructing variables such as ever cohabited or ever reported a first marriage.

The second of these variables is the number of Young Adult interviews completed (Y12051.00). This variable will allow users to assess how many respondents they would have at multiple time points for given measures. Users are reminded, however, that there are a variety of factors that influence a respondent's value on this variable, such as when the respondent aged up to the sample, during what years there were age or other restrictions applied to the fielded sample, and whether or not the respondent was actually interviewed in a given year. There are two flags per survey year, located in the CHILD BACKGROUND area of interest, allowing the user to identify whether a child was eligible to be interviewed as a Young Adult and whether or not a Young Adult interview occurred (see Table 2.5 in Chapter 2).

The last of these interview status variables is the number of Child survey years for which the respondent has at least some data available (Y12052.00). Users should be aware that the Child survey consists of two or three instruments, depending on the age of the child, and some respondents may have data for only one of these instruments in a given survey year (See Chapter 2 for greater detail on the Child survey instruments). This variable, as with the number of Young Adult interviews, is provided to help users gain a quick portrait of data availability. (See Chapter 1, Table 1.6, which shows these two variables, combined with age as of December 31, 2000, and race to provide a portrait of the availability of inputs from multiple time points for Young Adults.)

In addition to the variables discussed so far, there are additional key variables that users may find helpful. For each survey year, there is a Young Adult sampling weight (see discussion of sampling weights in Chapter 1) for those young adults who were interviewed. The user is reminded that young adults and younger children not interviewed in a given survey round are assigned a weight of zero for that round. (Note that there is a very minor exception to this in 2000. Four respondents who were part of the pool of oversample cases that were not fielded were inadvertently interviewed. For these four respondents, their interview data are included in the public release, but their sampling weights are set to zero.)

Also listed in Table 3.7 is the CAPI interview date for each survey round, as well as a small number of constructed variables available for 1996 through 2000. These variables include age in years at interview date (also available for 1994), age at December 31 of the survey year, type of residence R lives in (also available for 1994), region of residence, number of household members, marital status and cohabitation status.

Beginning in 2000, a series of constructed variables concerning relationships and fertility is being made available for users. Most of these variables are “yearless” in that they are constructed for all young adults regardless of when they were last interviewed as Young Adults. Y12050.00, discussed above, quickly allows users to identify for each respondent when these variables were last updated. This series of constructed variables includes flags for whether the respondent has ever reported a cohabitation or a first marriage, as well as month and year their first marriage and/or first cohabitation began, if applicable.

The remaining constructed variables pertain to the fertility history of the respondent and are too numerous to list in Table 3.7. Two – the number of children ever born and the age of R at first birth – have been listed. The remaining variables are child-specific. For each child the respondent has reported having, there are “yearless” variables for month and year of birth, gender, and, if applicable, date of death for that child. These data have been carefully compared across years, and discrepancies have been resolved as far as the data allow. In addition to these variables, there are also year-specific usual residence variables for each child. Users should note that these year-specific variables are created only where appropriate. For example, for fourth children, there are variables for usual residence in 1994, 1996 and 2000. There is no variable for usual residence of the fourth child in 1998 because in 1998 an age cap was in place and no interviewed respondent had more than three children. Similarly,

the only residence variable for a seventh child is for 2000, because that is the first round in which a seventh child was reported.

### **Geocode Data**

A geocode data file for the Young Adult that is comparable to those created each round for the main Youth is now available. A full set of geocode variables was created for *all* Young Adult years. These supplemental data files include selected variables from the *County And City Data Books* from various years along with geographic variables from the NLSY79 Young Adult survey data file.

The county and state of residence for each young adult respondent for each survey year were matched with the county and state variables on the *County And City Data Book* data files for both 1988 and 1994, and selected county-level or SMSA-level environmental variables were extracted from those files and included on the geocode data files. For young adults living in their mother's household, the county and state of residence were drawn from the mother's NLSY79 data if the mother was interviewed for that year. For young adults not living with their mothers or whose mothers were noninterviews in given years, county and state of residence were coded from the Young Adult survey data. In cases where the mother's data were missing or incomplete, Young Adult survey data were used to provide accurate codes wherever possible.

A decision was made to extract geocode variables for all four Young Adult survey years from only the 1988 and 1994 *County And City Data Book* data files. This decision means that the 1994 and 1996 Young Adult geocode variables are *not directly comparable* to those of their mothers, whose geocode variables were extracted from the 1983 and 1988 *County And City Data Book* data files.

The *County And City Data Book* data files were prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Related printed matter for each of these data files can be found in the *County And City Data Book* for the specified year, which is also published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The *Geocode Codebook* for the Young Adult provides the following detailed information on each geocode variable: its reference number, variable description, coding information, frequency distribution, file name, variable name, and source of the variable. Included are references to pertinent attachments and appendices from the *NLSY79 Geocode*

*Codebook Supplement* providing supplementary coding and variable creation procedures. Variables are grouped within the geocode codebook according to the year with YA GEOCODE 1994 variables followed by YA GEOCODE 1996 and so forth. (Note: Hardcopy versions of the geocode codebook and numeric index are not provided to CD-ROM users since the disc software allows users to generate their own documentation.)

For greater detail on the geocoding processes used in the NLSY79 main file across survey rounds, users should review the *NLSY79 Geocode Codebook Supplement*. The *NLSY79 Geocode Codebook Supplement* is available electronically on the geocode CD under the NLSY79 documentation (users must unzip and install the NLSY79 data to have this documentation available), online at <<http://www.bls.gov/nls/79quex/y79quex.htm>>, or as a hard copy from NLS User Services. This document has several appendices and attachments, including:

- ◆ *Appendix 10: Geocode Documentation* provides background information on how the original 1979-1982 geocode tape and subsequent updates were created and how those data were modified to form the 1979-2000 release.
- ◆ *Attachment 100: Geographic Regions* provides a listing of those states, which comprise each of the four regions, used in such variables as region of residence and south-non-south place of birth/place of residence at age 14.
- ◆ *Attachment 102: State FIPS Codes*, which are used to code respondents' state of birth and state of residence. (The expanded listing in this section is numbered separately from the remainder of this document.)
- ◆ *Attachment 104: SMSA Codes* contains the coding information utilized to classify SMSA, MSA, CMSA, PMSA of residence at each interview date.
- ◆ *Attachment 105: Addendum to FICE Codes* contains the supplementary identification numbers for those colleges and universities not listed in the Education of Directory Colleges and Universities (1981-1982 and 1982-1983 supplement) published by the National Center for Educational Statistics. (Section F of this attachment is numbered separately from the remainder of this document.)
- ◆ *Appendix 7: Unemployment Rates* provides an explanation of how the continuous and collapsed versions of the variable, unemployment rate for labor market of current residence were created.

### ***1994-2000 Geocode Data File Creation Procedure***

The software package Maptitude (V4.2) was used in the creation of the NLSY79 Young Adults 1994-2000 geocode data files for Young Adults who could not be matched to previous mother data (see the *NLSY79 Geocode Codebook Supplement* for greater detail).

This program links respondent address data to standard geographic information such as the FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standards) codes for state and county. Three graduated matching methods were applied, depending on the quality of the address data available.

1. An automated match was done between the respondent's locating address data and the Maptitude database. Address records with matching street segments were assigned the latitude and longitude of the location. In some cases, addresses had to be cleaned before they could be matched by the Maptitude program. Cleaning involves steps such as standardizing the address format, correcting obvious misspellings, identifying apartment numbers and locating them in the correct field, etc. It does not include any changes that might result in a change in the actual address location.
2. For some addresses, the procedure outlined in Step #1 failed to produce a match between the respondent's address data and the Maptitude database. In these cases, geocode staff used the Maptitude program to locate the correct street. If the street number could be located along this street, the latitude and longitude were assigned. However, some streets in the Maptitude database do not include information about street numbers. If this is the case, the address is manually located in the center of the street. The street is then classified as either a short street or a long street. Long streets cross Census tract or block group boundaries while short streets do not. As a result, the level of certainty about geographical information is much higher for short streets than for long streets.
3. Addresses unmatched by either of the first two procedures were assigned latitude and longitude coordinates according to a 5-digit zip centroid. A centroid is essentially the midpoint of a zip code area. The geographic information is less certain for respondents located using the zip centroid method.

Because some Young Adults had latitude and longitude derived from Maptitude, while others had these data matched from NLSY79 records for their mothers from years when different systems were used, a quality of match variable equivalent to GEO10 in the NLSY79 geocode data is not being released. Researchers who need to determine the level of certainty for the respondent's geographic data may contact CHRR User Services for further details.

### ***Supplementary Created Geocode Variables***

Birthdate Variables. Data indicating the day of birth of the respondent, his or her parents, children, and other household members are included on the geocode CD-ROM. Month and year of birth variables appear in the public use data set. The reference numbers and question names for the day of birth variables correspond to those used in the main data set

for month and year of birth. For example, the 2000 variables DATE OF BIRTH - MONTH and DATE OF BIRTH - YEAR (Y06392.01 and Y06392.02) released in the Child/Young Adult public data file contain information about the respondent's birth month and year. The corresponding variable released only in the geocode data file is DATE OF BIRTH - DAY (Y06392.00) and provides information about the respondent's day of birth. These variables can be found in the YA COMMON KEY VARIABLES area of interest.

College Variables. In all four Young Adult rounds, information about the name and location of the college or university that the respondent was currently or most recently attending were asked. Included in the geocode variables for each year are FICE codes for these colleges or universities as well as FIPS codes for the state where they are located. Additionally, in 2000, respondents who were either seniors in high school or in their first year of college were asked about what colleges and/or universities they had applied to. For these colleges and universities, FICE codes are available.

Child Support Variables. In all four Young Adult rounds, information about the state in which child support agreements were reached was collected. Included in the geocode variables for each year is the FIPS code for these states.

### ***Missing Data***

Following the same convention as the NLSY79 Child and Young Adult public release data, the missing data value for all items on the geocode data files is -7. The -7 values indicate either a non-interview for a given year or respondents who have a missing value in the data for any variables from the *County And City Data Book* for the following reasons:

1. Respondents who were in the military or who had an APO address;
2. Respondents who were residing outside of the United States;
3. Respondents whose state or county codes could not be determined.
4. Respondents who reside in a county or SMSA/MSA for which there is missing data for that geographic location from the *County And City Data Book* for that specific item.
5. Respondents who do not reside in an SMSA for any survey year 1994-2000 will be missing SMSA level environmental variables for that year.
6. Respondents whose state, county, and zip codes for any survey year 1994-2000 do not lead to an unambiguous SMSA designation. This generally applies only to a small number of respondents living in New England.

In the 1994-2000 geocode data file, for 1988 and 1994 metropolitan statistical area variables with NECMA codes, respondents living in the New England states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont were not treated any differently than those residing elsewhere. The addition of the “Record Type” variable in the 1988 and the 1994 County And City Data Book data files allows the user to designate these cases as missing and remove them from the analysis, without having to conduct a county-by-county or state-by-state determination of NECMA/non-NECMA status.

### ***Availability and Use of the Geocode Files***

The NLSY79 Young Adult geocode data are released on a CD that also includes the NLSY79 Youth geocode data. Researchers who wish to use the geocode data must file an application with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the application, researchers are asked to describe, in a few paragraphs, the research objectives of their project and explain how the geocode data are necessary to meet those objectives. They also are asked to provide information about the physical and electronic security measures in place at their institution. If their application is approved, a Letter of Agreement will be sent to the dean or other high-ranking official authorized to sign on behalf of the university or institution. The Letters of Agreement last one year for students and three years for faculty members. The application document is available online at <<http://www.bls.gov/nls/geocodeapp.htm>>.

Finally, we have a few suggestions concerning the use of these NLSY79 Young Adult geographic data files. Firstly, the data file and the accompanying documentation should be used in conjunction with the printed versions of the 1988 and 1994 *County and City Data Book* and the IPEDS codes so that researchers have complete information regarding variable descriptions and coding idiosyncrasies. Secondly, users should familiarize themselves not only with this document, but with the *NLSY79 Geocode Codebook Supplement*. Finally, it is emphasized that the data should not be used in any fashion that would endanger the confidentiality of any sample member. This is why users must sign a written licensing agreement consenting to protect respondent confidentiality and to other conditions; agree not to make, or allow to be made, unauthorized copies of the geocode file; and further agree to indemnify the Center for Human Resource Research for all claims arising from misuse of the file.





